

performance. Air India has been advised to take steps to intensify its marketing efforts, increase capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Approval to Foreign Investment Projects

1022. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign investment projects connected with tourism approved upto December 31, 1995;

(b) the total foreign investment involved in these projects; and

(c) the amount of foreign investment which has actually been made till date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) 93 proposals in hotel and tourism sector involving an amount of Rs 1896.39 Crores have been approved from September 1991 to December, 1995.

(c) The actual inflow of foreign investment till May, 1996 is Rs 87.18 crores

Price Rise in Consumer Items

1023. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of various consumer items has registered a steep rise following the rise in the administrative prices of petrol and petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the extent of rise on the items consumed by a common man?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry has been monitoring the retail prices of selected essential commodities on daily basis at 18 selected centres. On the basis of available statistics, there has been only a negligible variation in the retail prices of a few commodities at several centres during last 10 days.

[Translation]

Telephone exchanges in Rajasthan

1024. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of telephone exchanges in Rajasthan at present, district-wise;

(b) the details of the telephone exchanges in terms of their technique, district-wise;

(c) the proposed remodelling of exchanges as also of increasing their capacity to cater to the increasing requirements;

(d) the number of rural and urban public telephones and those with STD facility are operating in Rajasthan at present alongwith the number of PCOs proposed to be added to the existing PCOs during the year, district-wise;

(e) the names of the rural and urban areas where new electronic exchanges are proposed to be set up, district-wise;

(f) the basis on which telecommunications Committees are constituted; and

(g) the reasons for non-inclusion of local people representatives. Members of Parliament in it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The total capacity of telephone exchanges in Rajasthan is 6,38,435. The district-wise details of capacity of exchanges and the number of exchanges of each technology are enclosed in statement-I.

(c) Out of 13 Electro-Mechanical exchanges 12 are planned to be replaced in a phased manner.

During the year 1996-97, 1,51,300 lines of net exchanges capacity is planned to be added to cater the increased demand.

(d) There are 23,531 PCOs in Rajasthan out of which 6,953 are with STD. The district-wise details of rural and urban and number of PCOs proposed to be added during the year are enclosed in statement-II.

(e) The district-wise details of new main electronic exchanges to be set up in urban areas is enclosed at Annexure-C. A total of 155 small exchanges will also be added in rural areas depending upon the demand forecast and availability of suitable land and building for the exchanges.

(f) and (g) Telephone Advisory Committees are constituted one for each Metro Telephone District Telecom Circle and one for each secondary switching Areas headed by GM Telecom District Manager. Nominations to these committees are made by the Ministry of Communications by taking into account the recommendations made by the Heads of Circles, M.Ps and various local bodies. The representations received from the local people representing the various interests of the society are also considered. However, the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are nominated by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Hence, the question of not including the local representatives does not arise.